
STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

REPORT

ON THE

PASTORAL AND DAIRYING INDUSTRIES FOR THE YEAR 1923-24.

BY

W. L. JOHNSTON, Government Statist.

(BULLETIN No. 11 OF 1924.)

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

REPORT ON THE PASTORAL AND DAIRYING INDUSTRIES FOR THE YEAR 1923-24.

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—REPORT ON THE PASTORAL AND DAIRYING INDUSTRIES, 1923-24.

A REVIEW of the recently collected statistical details of the strength of the State's flocks and herds as at June 30th last, or thereabouts, and the pastoral and dairying production for the year ended on the same date, indicates that these industries as a whole are in a fairly satisfactory condition. The decrease of 12,539 in the cattle herds is set off by an increase of 291,742 in the sheep flocks. Evidently a strong effort was made to substantially increase the sheep flocks, for the number of ewes mated, 2,572,716, is the greatest recorded hitherto. Considerably less sheep were slaughtered during the year, the loss being made good by a heavier slaughtering of cattle. The milk cows maintained their numbers, though there was a decrease of 2,573 in heifers. The butter and cheese output was considerably increased. Throughout this report the figures appearing in parentheses, unless otherwise stated, are those for 1922-23, inserted for comparative purposes.

STRENGTH OF FLOCKS.

Cattle.—413,272 (425,811); decrease 12,539, or 2.94 per cent.; 136,438 (135,450) of these were dairy cows either in milk or dry at the time of collection, and 32,339 (34,912) were heifers over 1 year and under 2 years of age.

Horses.—258,489 (264,150); decrease 5,661, or 2.14 per cent. Of this number 84,123 (85,636) were described as light, and 173,121 (177,076) as draught horses, and entire horses over 2 years old numbered 1,245 (1,438).

Sheep.—6,596,875 (6,305,133); increase 291,742, or 4.63 per cent. These figures include the effective winter lambing results to the time of tailing. Of this total the number of ewes was reported to be 2,975,240 (2,794,274). The flocks within counties increased in the Central Division by 92,160, Lower North 97,200, Upper North 87,452, South-East 14,357, Western 10,796, and Murray Mallee by 5,321. In the outside pastoral areas the net decrease was 15,544.

Pigs.—73,414 (75,520); decrease 2,106, or 2.79 per cent.; 104,393 (118,765) pigs were slaughtered during the year, of which 61,218 (60,525) were for bacon and ham.

Goats.—7,596 (8,765); decrease, 1,169. The Angora goats, mostly half-bred, numbered 942; 172 Angora goats were reported to have been shorn, and 500lbs. of mohair obtained.

Other Stock.—Camels, 3,207 (2,852); mules, 810 (901). donkeys, 3,360 (3,897); and ostriches, 611 (624). 594

The following summary shows the numbers of stock within counties and in the outside pastoral areas, with the increase or decrease over last year.

Locality.	Cattle.	Horses.	Sheep.	
			Total.	Ewes.
Within counties	283,177	234,705	5,645,232	2,437,569
Increase or decrease...	-11,949	-5,460	+307,286	+177,715
Outside country	130,095	23,784	951,643	537,671
Increase or decrease...	-590	-201	-15,544	+3,251
Grand total	413,272	258,489	6,596,875	2,975,240
Increase or decrease...	-12,539	-5,661	+291,742	+180,966

LAMBING.

The lambing generally was satisfactory; 2,572,716 (2,414,221) ewes were mated, and 1,601,039 (1,395,278) lambs were marked, the effective drop to time of marking averaging 62.23 (57.79) per cent. Within counties 1,362,356 (1,192,212) lambs were marked, averaging 63.90 (61.11) per cent., and in the outside pastoral country 238,683 (203,066) were marked, giving an average of 54.15 (43.84) per cent.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF LIVESTOCK.

(Excluding interstate trade by sea—No record.)

Year ended June 30th.—The imports of sheep exceeded the exports by 90,646 and cattle by 21,965.

During the last five years the imports of sheep in excess of exports has averaged annually 62,038 and cattle 29,120. The following are the details —

Year ended June 30th—	Sheep.		Cattle.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
1921-22.....	214,191	125,503	40,090	6,925
1922-23.....	357,014	188,515	34,634	9,397
1923-24.....	229,193	138,547	45,949	23,984
Total 5 years .	1,332,852	1,022,660	223,525	77,924

SLAUGHTERING.

During the year ended June 30th last the slaughterings were—*Sheep and Lambs*, 956,140 (1,290,669), decrease 334,529; the slaughterings for export being 31,514 against 182,702 for the previous season. *Cattle*, 140,979 (127,294), increase 13,685. *Pigs*, 104,393 (118,765), decrease 14,372.

MORTALITY.

In comparison with the previous season the reported losses of livestock from dogs and foxes, drought, natural causes, &c., were as follows —

Cattle, 16,083 (14,793); *horses*, 9,658 (8,089); *sheep and lambs*, 310,464 (291,872).

DAIRYING.

The dairying industry during the previous season made substantial headway, and the results of last season indicate that the advance then made has been continued. The herds now number 168,777 (170,362), a decrease of 1,585. The number of cows in milk and dry at the time of collecting were 136,438 (135,450), and heifers 32,339 (34,912).

The production of butter and cheese establishes new records, the quantities being butter 17,174,962 (14,646,632) lbs. and cheese 3,679,556 (3,261,565) lbs.

The production of bacon and ham was 5,070,144 (5,002,199) lbs., increase 67,945lbs.

The average yearly market prices for dairy produce were—Butter (factory), 1s. 6½d. (1s. 8½d.); cheese, 1s. 0¼d. (10d.); bacon, 1s. 4d. (1s. 1¼d.); and ham 1s. 6d. (1s. 5d.) per lb.

The estimated value of all dairy products (butter, cheese, bacon, ham, pork, &c., and milk consumed as such) was £2,310,195 (£1,979,465), an increase of £330,730. The overseas exports of butter were 3,031,612 (3,185,346) lbs. valued at £223,255 (£268,223), or 18d. (20d.) per lb. In addition 258,647 (342,380) lbs. of cheese, valued at £10,243 (£13,299) were exported to overseas countries.

FIVE YEARS' DAIRYING PRODUCTION.

Item.	1919-20.	1922-23.	1923-24.	Average Five Years.
Dairy stock—				
Over 2 yearsNo.	106,982	135,450	136,438	125,492
HeifersNo.	30,885	34,912	32,339	33,518
Butterlbs.	9,810,335	14,646,632	17,174,962	13,618,961
Cheeselbs.	2,540,183	3,261,565	3,679,556	2,935,680
Pigs killed (total)No.	103,778	118,765	104,393	100,962
Bacon and hamlbs.	5,810,616	5,002,199	5,070,144	5,028,951
Production£	1,706,624	1,979,465	2,310,195	2,033,713
Butter exportslbs.	2,401,224	3,185,346	3,031,612	3,237,231
Butter exportsvalue, £	182,299	268,223	223,255	271,272
Butter exportsvalue per lb.	1/6	1/8	1/6	1/8

MILKING MACHINES.

The use of machines for milking is being widely extended. Advices received indicate 224 being used, made up as follows — 66 milking 2 cows, 73 milking 3 cows, 64 milking 4 cows, 7 milking 5 cows, and 14 milking 6 cows.

REGISTRATION OF BULLS.

Under the Dairy Cattle Improvement Act, 1921, 5,051 bulls were registered during year. Total fees received—£2,503. The amount at credit of the Fund at June 30th, 1924, was £4,613.

MARKET PRICES OF STOCK.

Increases are noted in the average market prices of cattle, sheep and pigs, the yearly average for prime bullocks rising from £14 9s. in 1922-23 to £16 9s. 6d. in 1923-24; prime cows, £8 19s. to £10 15s.; prime Merino wethers, £1 17s. to £2 9s. 3d.; prime crossbred wethers, £1 11s. 9d. to £2 7s. 3d.; baconers, £4 to £5 6s. 3d.; and porkers, £2 9s. to £3 11s. 6d.

A better understanding of the position will be obtained from the following summary showing the averages for each six-monthly period in contrast with the annual averages —

Stock Prices.

Period.	Bullocks. Prime.	Sheep (Prime Wethers).		Pigs.	
		Merino.	Crossbred.	Baconers.	Porkers.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
July-December, 1922	13 19 6	1 13 6	1 6 6	4 0 6	2 7 0
January-June, 1923	14 19 6	2 0 6	1 17 0	3 19 6	2 11 0
July-December, 1923	18 15 9	2 5 6	2 3 0	5 4 3	3 9 3
January-June, 1924	14 3 3	2 13 0	2 11 0	5 8 0	3 13 9
Year 1922-23	14 9 0	1 17 0	1 11 9	4 0 0	2 9 0
Year 1923-24	16 9 6	2 9 3	2 7 3	5 6 3	3 11 6

W. L. JOHNSTON, Government Statist.
Statistical Department, Adelaide, December 9th, 1924.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—LIVESTOCK STATISTICS.

Return showing the number of Cattle, Horses, Sheep, and Pigs in each County and Division of the State for the year 1923-24 in comparison with the year 1922-23.

County and Division.	Cattle.				Horses.		Sheep and Lambs.		Pigs.	
	Total.		Dairying.							
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
I. CENTRAL DIVISION—										
Adelaide	35,195	31,052	27,412	24,880	24,665	20,903	141,896	140,789	15,293	12,060
Carnarvon	870	925	532	544	1,172	1,180	44,765	51,770	250	137
Eyre	8,165	8,029	4,824	5,479	5,717	5,488	123,607	133,389	2,005	2,063
Fergusson	9,301	8,954	5,553	5,395	14,855	14,508	154,127	183,616	2,253	2,356
Gawler	10,984	10,744	7,345	7,498	11,557	11,520	106,567	115,992	3,684	4,054
Hindmarsh	16,183	16,602	11,395	11,304	6,027	5,815	182,022	193,655	5,328	5,568
Light	14,262	13,716	10,235	9,775	13,176	12,824	110,948	116,796	4,620	4,218
Sturt	14,469	13,721	9,241	9,229	6,985	6,446	211,607	231,692	3,509	2,985
II. LOWER NORTH DIVISION—										
Burra	4,806	4,430	2,571	2,305	3,458	3,474	246,728	242,988	633	482
Daly	9,894	9,916	6,408	6,425	18,541	18,668	151,119	190,253	3,175	3,687
Kimberley	2,544	2,096	1,192	1,093	1,433	1,261	142,892	122,928	243	201
Stanley	12,240	11,632	8,120	8,291	18,006	17,999	246,237	291,228	4,047	3,979
Victoria	14,665	13,383	8,225	8,166	16,494	16,029	238,956	275,735	3,776	4,687
III. UPPER NORTH DIVISION—										
Blachford	2,905	2,880	518	564	900	928	65,649	70,683	209	180
Dalhousie	11,090	9,624	6,684	6,395	6,967	6,748	171,632	202,114	1,715	1,573
Derby	54	54	10	10	88	88	21,050	22,114	—	—
Frome	13,311	12,372	7,045	6,944	9,790	9,558	194,811	221,078	2,156	2,149
Granville	4,613	3,198	1,287	1,257	1,193	1,120	120,532	131,309	216	207
Hanson	3,856	2,537	515	516	993	1,013	89,168	104,633	247	163
Herbert	3,687	3,579	1,364	1,212	1,296	1,175	130,357	116,173	161	137
Lytton	1,264	1,409	29	104	161	160	62,389	69,752	—	—
Newcastle	6,679	5,407	1,785	1,642	1,814	1,617	85,085	95,521	432	300
Taunton	3,210	3,327	96	47	346	417	76,639	71,387	12	6
IV. SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION—										
Buckingham	1,869	1,860	1,279	1,309	2,872	2,848	150,476	154,903	362	301
Cardwell	1,475	825	305	127	610	584	20,096	20,766	97	140
Grey	35,682	40,936	16,838	18,213	9,785	10,506	440,755	478,448	8,173	8,965
MacDonnell	1,800	1,593	897	849	1,708	1,575	167,640	178,697	236	136
Robe	5,085	4,468	2,575	2,385	3,474	3,056	345,852	306,362	362	285
V. WESTERN DIVISION—										
Bosanquet	137	83	10	30	123	50	46,329	40,593	6	5
Buxton	914	618	302	358	1,668	1,885	4,312	7,139	191	231
Dufferin	320	297	171	179	1,439	1,500	11,620	12,979	171	205
Flinders	3,771	3,273	2,267	1,978	4,634	4,331	158,269	166,857	607	766
Hopetoun	315	298	190	183	686	718	32,292	39,432	102	97
Jervois	3,708	3,182	2,175	1,900	5,717	5,810	70,925	92,961	582	678
Kintore	407	334	235	221	1,003	1,077	26,873	26,310	166	143
Le Hunte	689	692	460	444	1,964	2,239	2,215	5,516	346	246
Manchester	943	1,048	211	136	536	398	104,481	70,376	75	59
Musgrave	1,321	1,272	713	689	2,165	2,141	158,300	159,780	207	199
Robinson	1,426	1,338	896	844	3,886	3,902	106,065	111,866	625	429
Way	917	913	549	566	2,578	2,519	21,961	23,229	541	459
York	832	919	80	154	227	219	17,380	14,780	11	31
VI. MURRAY MALLEE DIVISION—										
Albert	5,148	5,168	3,123	3,260	6,250	6,394	38,576	38,938	1,657	1,443
Alfred	5,064	5,163	2,740	2,680	7,156	7,321	54,880	44,907	2,180	2,415
Buccleuch	2,626	2,492	1,745	1,804	4,263	4,396	14,805	21,664	1,047	1,012
Chandos	3,164	3,280	1,840	2,164	6,118	6,162	36,188	38,179	1,075	1,282
Hamley	733	872	499	592	2,021	2,062	26,042	37,621	210	208
Russell	11,835	12,177	6,901	7,622	3,090	3,548	98,560	100,408	2,252	2,363
Young	698	489	252	188	558	525	64,271	56,926	93	63
SUMMARY.										
CENTRAL DIVISION	109,429	103,743	76,537	74,104	84,154	78,684	1,075,539	1,167,699	36,942	33,441
LOWER NORTH DIVISION	44,149	41,457	26,516	26,280	57,932	57,431	1,025,932	1,123,132	11,874	13,036
UPPER NORTH DIVISION	50,669	44,387	19,333	18,691	23,548	22,824	1,017,312	1,104,764	5,148	4,715
SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION	45,911	49,682	21,894	22,883	18,449	18,569	1,124,819	1,139,176	9,230	9,827
WESTERN DIVISION	15,700	14,267	8,259	7,682	26,626	26,789	761,022	771,818	3,630	3,548
MURRAY MALLEE DIVISION	29,268	29,641	17,100	18,310	29,456	30,408	333,322	338,643	8,514	8,786
Total counties	295,126	283,177	169,639	167,950	240,165	234,705	5,337,946	5,645,232	75,338	73,353
Outside counties	130,685	130,095	723	827	23,985	23,784	967,187	951,643	182	61
Grand total of State	425,811	413,272	170,362	168,777	264,150	258,489	6,305,133	6,596,875	75,520	73,414
Increase or decrease	—	-12,539	—	-1,585	—	-5,661	—	+ 291,742	—	-2,106